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THE KNIGHTS OF *endragon*



UNION JACK...
HONG KONG...
DEEP TROUBLE!

MACNEIL '91





THE SLEEPING LORD

When their vivid precognitions lead the Pendragons – Union Jack, Kate McClellan and Ben Gallagher – to Africa, they once more find themselves doing battle with ivory poachers. This time, however, the killers are after the teeth of the hippo and their base is not in east Africa but in the western jungles of Wakanda. Using their dreams as guides, the Earth Champions finally catch up with the poachers as they go about their bloody business and as battle is joined, the Pendragons find that the hunters are led by the evil warriors of the Bane. The fighting is a close-run thing until it interrupts a safari by the King of Wakanda, T'challa, the Black Panther, and his two friends, Sue and Reed Richards of the Fantastic Four. The three superheroes join the Pendragons in smashing the poaching operation, but, unfortunately, the trail doesn't end there. The Pendragons must now go after the money men who buy the illegal ivory. To this end, Kate and Ben head for Australia in search of a man called McKinley, while Black Panther joins Union Jack in his hunt for the House of Orchids in Hong Kong. Elsewhere, in Germany, Pendragon Peter Hunter continues the hunt for the nest of the Bane – the Spiral Tower...

15 *Hidden Agendas*

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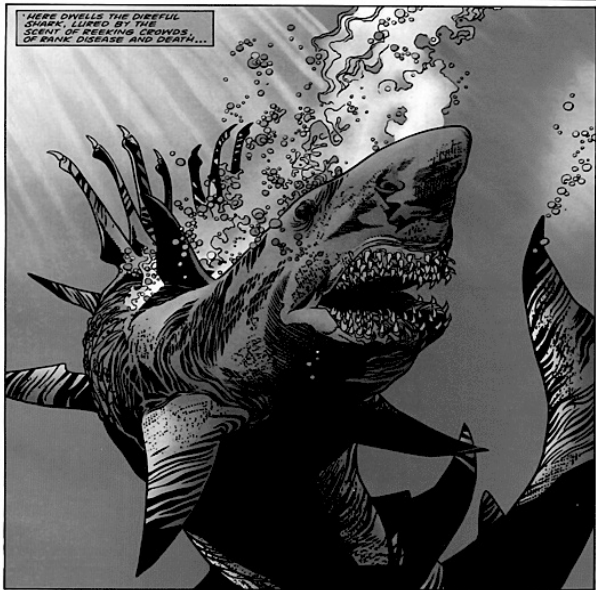
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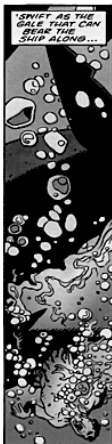
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PORT JACKSON,
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA.



'HERE DWELLS THE DRETFUL
SHARK, LURED BY THE
SCENT OF REEKING CROWDS,
OF RANK DISEASE AND DEATH...'





10:20 AM, THE NEXT DAY.

WAS ABOUT HERE THEY FOUND THE SURF, KATIE. WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE POOR DAG. OLD B'NGUDJA AIN'T EXACTLY A PICKY EATER...

B'NGUDJA?

JUST A NICKNAME, KATIE. IN ABORIGINAL MYTH, THE TIGER SHARK GOD B'NGUDJA ATTACKED A DOLPHIN-MAN IN THE GULF OF CARPENTARIA...

...THEY RECKON HE LEFT A RED STAIN ON THE ROCKS OF CHASM ISLAND YOU CAN STILL SEE TODAY...



IT SEEMS YOU'RE A FOUNTAIN OF KNOWLEDGE, MR BUCHANAN...

LES TO ME MATES, I'M JUST GLAD I FINALLY GOT TO MEET ASTRA TV'S STAR EXPORT. I MEAN, I'VE ONLY OWNED THE BLEEDIN' COMPANY SINCE EIGHTY BLEEDIN' SEVEN.



THAT'S FASCINATING MR BUCHANAN, BUT THIS ISN'T ACTUALLY A SOCIAL CALL. WE'RE HERE TO INVESTIGATE A TRADE IN ILLEGAL HIPPO IVORY...

HAHAHA! MY BLOOD OATH? IS THAT A FACT, MR GALLAGHER?



IT'LL KEEP, BEN, AS IT HAPPENS, I DO FIND THE LOCAL SHARK LORE FASCINATING.

TOO TRUE, DARL. LISTEN, I'LL TAKE YOU TO SEE BRENT MCCINLEY BACK IN PORT JACKSON...

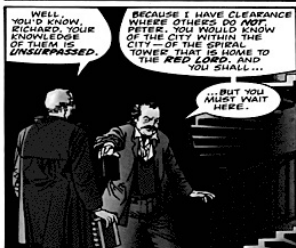
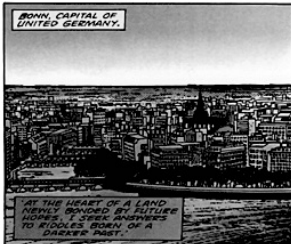


...WHAT HE DON'T KNOW ABOUT SHARKS AIN'T MUCH CHOP TO START WITH!



'MCCINLEY...?'







RICHARD!



THE BOOKS...



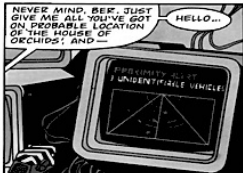
THE STALE MUSK
OF AGE — OF
DECAY — THE
FLUTTER OF
PAPERY WINGS...



...AND THE
PENDRAGON
RESPONDS.





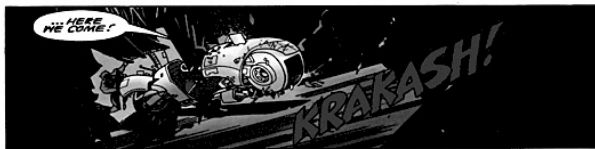












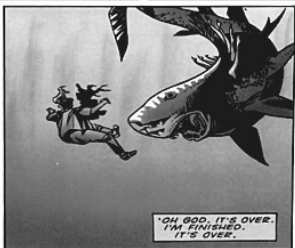
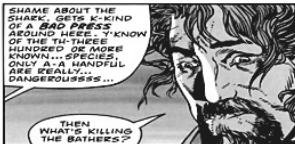


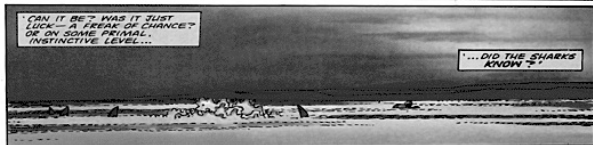
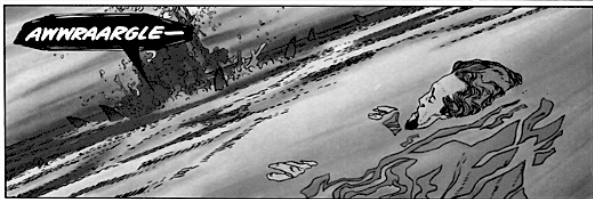












LONDON. THE MUSEUM OF PAGAN ANTIQUITIES. LATE EVENING, NEXT DAY.

'SOMETHING'S HAPPENING.'



'ALL THIS FREAKY STUFF IN MY HEAD — FACES — NAMES — PLACES — ALMOST LIKE MEMORIES.'



'BUT THEY'RE NOT. NOT MY MEMORIES. AND AS FOR THE VOICES...'

'WELL, THERE'S JUST NO WAY I'M GOING TO DO WHAT THEY'RE TELLING ME. THAT WOULD BE PLAIN CRAZY. SANE PEOPLE DON'T DO STUFF LIKE THAT.'



'HEH. GLAD WE GOT THAT SETTLED.'



OOOEEEEOOOEE

OO, YOU? STOP! YOU LONG STREAK OF PARALYZED PI—



'OKAY, CROWN. HERE YOU ARE AT THE WHEEL OF A STOLEN USED CAR WITH NO TAX DISC AND A PRICELESS IRON AGE SWORD ON THE BACK SEAT.'

'THIS IS GOOD. THIS IS REALLY GOOD.'





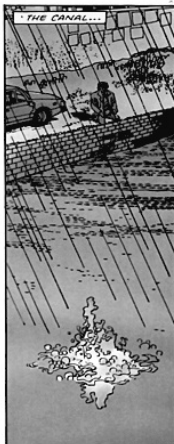
"EXCELLENCE!
BUT AFTER WE
BEFORE YOU
CAN SAY LIKE
IMMORTAL
RIGHT..."



"...BETTER DITCH
THE BLOODY THING."



CHH!



"THE CANAL..."



"A SWORD, BUT IT'S NOT THE SWORD.
LASHED TOGETHER OF SCRAP METAL
AND TWISTED GARBAGE. THERE'S
STILL SOMETHING NOBLE ABOUT IT..."

"SOMETHING REGAL..."

"...SOMETHING THAT BURNS
WITH ANCIENT PURPOSE."



"AND THEN I
UNDERSTAND WHAT
IT IS, AND WHAT I
HAVE TO DO."

ROUND TABLE

2 : G R A C E



REAL NAME: Francesca Lexley Grace

OCCUPATION: Ex-corporate director of the Omni Megacorporation, now full-time leader of the Bane

IDENTITY: Grace's history and powers are unknown to the general public

LEGAL STATUS: Citizen of the UK with criminal record, fugitive

PLACE OF BIRTH: Jedda, Saudi Arabia

MARITAL STATUS: Widow

KNOWN RELATIVES: None

GROUP AFFILIATION: The Bane

BASE OF OPERATIONS: The Spiral Tower, which exists in a parallel dimension, housing our own

FIRST APPEARANCE: KOP #1

History: Grace was the unscrupulous corporate director of the Omni Corporation, a global industrial conglomerate when her involvement in the Bane-Pendragon War began. Various individuals connected to Omni began to meet with rather unpleasant fates and Grace appointed her personal assistant, the psychotic Dolph, to investigate both the deaths and the policeman placed on the case, Chief Inspector Dai Thomas. Thomas himself, aided by TV reporter Kane McClellan and Captain Britain, discovered that the deaths had been caused by the Pendragon's chief spirit, the Green Knight, as a vengeance against Omni's corporate excesses. Soon after, Grace was contacted and consumed by the poisonous powers of the Bane, and became an active protagonist on their part in the Eternal War. Grace's ruthlessness and greed made her particularly strong and she soon came to direct the Bane's operations. It was she who personally recruited the young Cam McClellan, Kate's son, to the Bane.

Her devious plans to poison the land at Joselito in Spain, a site sacred to the earliest Pendragons, and summon forth the Bane god, the Horned One, brought her into direct conflict with the Knights of Pendragon, and their allies. These included the American superhero Iron Man, whose alter-ego Tony Stark had had his industrial projects corrupted by involvement in a deal with Omni. The Bane were defeated, and Grace was apparently destroyed in an encounter with Iron Man (iron is anathema to the Bane).

Grace had actually retreated into the sanctuary of the Bane's citadel, the Spiral Tower, where she began to plot the ultimate overthrow of the Pendragons.

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 130 lbs

Eyes: Black

Hair: Black

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Dear P2P,

It's taken a while to actually figure out what's been going on with your storyline, but it's been great! Some really interesting writing. I'm so glad that Union Jack and Captain Britain are appealing together. I hope you develop the Bane counterparts to the Pendragons more. Is there any plan to introduce the Black Knight? If enough of the Pendragons get together, will 'Arthur' be reborn? If Arthur does rise, will the Black Knight give up his ebony sword? Also could you clarify where these legends were supposed to have taken place?

According to the book, Holy Blood, Holy Grail by Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh and Henry Lincoln (BBC writers), they claim that Brittany is in France. Also, are the Bane any relation to the Knights Templar or the secret society of the Prieuré de Sion? If these are spurious enchantments, I hope they have an immortal bearing to them like in the motion picture, Highlander with Sean Connery, where they lived for centuries hunting each other down. The only way they could die was by decapitation. Interesting move! I have only one complaint, and I'll quote John Byrne: "A kid doesn't walk across the room and say 'Wow! That book looks well written!' Good art can save a bad story, but good writing can't save bad art." I don't know if your artist can only draw stiff two dimensional characters or if your inker doesn't know how to ink or do backgrounds? The book deserves better! I hope you continue to have storylines that take you around the world and involve some other British heroes. Can you guest-star characters from other countries? I ask because there are other nations that have knights and even Samurai!

There is so much legend and lore to play with. I hope you have a ball with it and you can work something out to improve the artwork.

Good luck,
Craig Satterlee,
Powell, Wyoming.

Okay, let's take the points as they arrived. We have no plans to bring the Black Knight into the series, and even if we did, and even if Arthur did pop up, I'm sure B.K. wouldn't have to give



PENDRAGON to paper

him his ebony sword as Arthur usually has a nice one of his own. As for Arthur's re-birth, well... I... er... I'm not going to say anything about that... The said book is absolutely right. Brittany is in France, near Normandy as I recall. But I see what you're driving at. During our own research, it did become apparent that France has its own almost identical legends about Arthur, and there are obviously close links between the two versions. For example, Lancelot du Lac is from across the channel in the British version, as his name would suggest. But for the benefit of K.O.P., the action takes place in the UK. Now, it's funny that you should raise the Templars and the various secret societies, because we're hoping to develop similar things in future storylines. You'd also be wise to watch the current saga with interest, which may hint at how we see things going. Your final point about the artwork is one that always has me, as the editor, springing to the defence of Gary and Bambos. Although, having said that, I think that you'll find all your points completely shot to hell by this issue's stunning artwork – easily the best of the series. I rest my case.



Dear P2P,

My brother and I really enjoy The Knights of Pendragon. It's nice to see

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a book that concentrates on something other than superheroes. We both like Arthurian mythology, and it is nice to see Captain Britain outside Excalibur. I have just a few questions:

1. I like Union Jack's new costume, but I agree with reader Phillippe Boule, who said that his new suit looked 'too much like Captain Britain's second costume'. But what I wanted to ask you about was the reply you gave Phillippe (issue 10 letter column), which was 'a virtually all-black costume would be more menacing, useful in scaring the bejeezus out of the criminal element. After all, they are a superstitious bunch, and he is playing on their fears'. Doesn't that sound a bit like Batman's reasoning to you?

2. This reader also mentioned Union Jack appearing in Namor 12. Being that he is not in my copy of Namor 12, I assume that Marvel UK has different books and storylines and I was wondering if they are available here in the States.

Congrats to all on a wonderful book. Good luck and may K.O.P. last a long, long time.

Chris Donahue,
Poughkeepsie, NY.

1. Bingo! However, dressing all in black and in a menacing costume is not the sole domain of Batman, and we never implied that it was an original idea. If it came from anywhere, it came from the SAS, who made black polonecks and masks the fashion accessory for the eighties. Their reasoning – that someone leaping through a window dressed in such a manner has a vaguely disturbing psychological effect on your average terrorist. The fact that their Hecklar & Kochs are coughing death and they're hurling stun grenades about has no bearing on it whatsoever, I guess... 2. We're not doing a Marvel UK title featuring Namor here, and having checked around, you'll find that the new version of Union Jack did indeed appear in Namor 12 as part of the Invaders re-union. So I'm not sure where you got your copy from, Chris, but I'd look into it if I were you.

